



## Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.  
Secretary

KENNETH L. KIMMELL  
Commissioner

### Reducing Food Waste A How to Guide for Businesses and Institutions Updated December 2012

#### *Why prevent Food Waste?*

- **Improve your bottom line** through cost savings from improved purchasing and preparation practices and reduced waste disposal fees.
  - Food waste losses account for \$30-\$40 billion annually within the commercial and institutional sector, according to the U.S. EPA. (1)
- **Support** your community by using leftover food to feed people in need.
- **Reduce your environmental footprint** and greenhouse gas emissions.
  - According to the U.S. EPA, food waste accounted for 14% or 35 million tons of total municipal solid waste in 2010.
- **Get recognized** for your achievements with food reduction and recovery programs.
- **Access free technical assistance** setting up your program and undertaking food recovery with [RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#).

#### *How to prevent food waste - Steps your business or institution can take:*

##### **1. Reduce!**

- **Order or produce less** – By modifying your ordering/purchasing – both quantities and timing – you can greatly reduce the amount of surplus food. Simply, buy only what you will use.
  - One of the best ways to determine what can be modified is by conducting an organics waste audit. This will help establish a baseline measure of the amount of food you throw away.
  - EPA provides a template for a food waste tracking log:  
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/materials/organics/pubs/food-waste-log.pdf>
- **Proper Storage and Preparation** – Continually review production and handling practices to make sure food is being handled and stored in the best possible way.

(1) EPA: Putting Surplus Food to Good Waste

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/materials/organics/pubs/food-guide.pdf>

- For example, by reviewing your menus and what you offer to employees at meetings or in the cafeteria, you can determine if certain items account for excessive preparation waste.
- **Cook as you go** – Batch cooking is a great way to help reduce waste in the kitchen, especially in large cafeterias or corporate dining facilities where food is made to order.
- **Use every last bit** – By using as much as possible of your cooking product, you are not only helping to reduce waste, you are also providing different food options.
  - For example, consider all secondary uses for excess food – leftover bread can become croutons, excess rice can become fried rice, and brown bananas can be used for banana bread.
  - Try this website for some ideas: <http://www.delish.com/recipes/cooking-recipes/ideas-for-common-leftovers-recipes>
- **Go Trayless** – Studies show that diners provided with trays tend to take additional servings just because there is room left on their trays in the lunch room. Switching to trayless service can greatly reduce food waste.
- **Invite a culture shift** – By educating your employees about the benefits of food waste reduction through discussions and visibility, you can help usher in a culture shift in the workplace.

## 2. **Redistribute/Donate!**

- **Feed people in need** – Donate extra food to local food banks, shelters and soup kitchens. There are many people in need that may be located right in your neighborhood.
  - Many national organizations offer free bins and free pickup for surplus.
- **Feed animals** – Divert food scraps to animal feed at a nearby farm. Many local farmers would be more than happy to cut down on their overhead costs and feed your food scraps to their animals.
- **Follow the pyramid** – For food that cannot be reduced or donated, seek other alternatives to disposal such as composting or anaerobic digestion using EPA's food pyramid as a guide: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/organics/pubs/food-guide.pdf>

### ***How does the law protect businesses from liability?***

- The "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" ([Public Law 104-210](#)) makes it easier for businesses to donate to food banks and food recovery programs. It protects donors from liability when donating to nonprofit organizations and protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the needy recipient.

Please see the end of this document for a partial list of donation locations in Massachusetts.

For a searchable directory of food pantries, please visit: [www.findafoodpantry.org](http://www.findafoodpantry.org)

## ***Food Banks and Other Food Donation Options***

Non-perishable and unspoiled perishable food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters. Doing so helps to feed the hungry, prevents good, edible food from going to waste, as well as reduces the quantity of food waste that goes to landfills. Massachusetts has a number of such organizations such as food banks, soup kitchens, youth or senior centers, shelters and pantries willing to take donations.

### **Feeding People in need:**

There are four regional food banks in Massachusetts providing hunger relief programs, where food is distributed to a network of member feeding programs (including soup kitchens, food pantries and homeless shelters). To find your regional food bank, visit [America's Second Harvest](#).

Please note that many organizations may accept direct food donations, as well. To find a local organization in need:

Contact the FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. [Project Bread/The Walk for Hunger](#) operates this service to provide up-to-date information about Massachusetts organizations in need of assistance.

The following list provides additional donation sites in specific towns:

- **The Arlington Food Pantry**  
Church of our Savior, 21 Marathon Street, Arlington, MA 02476  
Website: [http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public\\_documents/ArlingtonMA\\_HServe/pantry/donations](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public_documents/ArlingtonMA_HServe/pantry/donations)  
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food and Baby Care Items, Beverages & Condiments, Personal Care Items & Toiletries
- **Beverly Bootstraps Food Pantry**  
371 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915  
Phone: 978-927-1561 Fax: 978-927-1553  
Website: [www.beverlybootstraps.org](http://www.beverlybootstraps.org)  
Donations: Food and Personal care items
- **The Greater Boston Food Bank**  
70 South Bay Ave, Boston, MA 02118-2700  
Phone: 617-427-5200; Fax: 617-427-0146  
Website: [www.gbfb.org](http://www.gbfb.org)  
Donations: Prepared Foods, Fresh Produce, Back Pack, Salvage
- **Boston Rescue Mission**  
39 Kingston Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02112  
Phone: 617-338-9000 (1209)  
Website: [info@brm.org](mailto:info@brm.org)  
Donations: Food, Toiletries, Clothing, Small Appliances

- **Bourne Friends Food Pantry**  
 6 Colonel Dr., Bourne, MA 02532  
 Phone: (508) 759-3351  
 P. O. Box 144, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532  
 Website: [www.bournecouncilonaging.org/foodpantry.html](http://www.bournecouncilonaging.org/foodpantry.html)  
 Donations: Food (Perishable & Non-perishable)
- **Braintree Community Food Pantry**  
 594 Washington St Braintree, MA 02184  
 Phone: (781) 356-0161  
 Website: [braintreefoodpantry.org](http://braintreefoodpantry.org)  
 Donations: Non-perishable food
- **Charity Guild the Food Pantry**  
 501 Main St Brockton, MA 02301  
 Phone: (508) 583-6680  
 Website: <http://thecharityguild.org/foodpantry/>  
 Donations: Perishable & Non-Perishable Food
- **Burlington Community Food Pantry**  
 10 Saint Marks Rd, Burlington, MA 01803  
 Phone: (781) 270-6625  
 P.O. Box 343 Burlington, MA 01803  
 Website: [http://peoplehelpingpeopleinc.org/communityPantry\\_donations.html](http://peoplehelpingpeopleinc.org/communityPantry_donations.html)  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Beverages & Condiments, Personal Care Items & Toiletries, Detergents & Cleaning Agents, Paper Towels & Toilet Papers
- **Canton Helpline Food Pantry**  
 960R Washington St., Canton, MA 02021  
 Phone: (781) 821-8062  
 Website: [town.canton.ma.us/pantry/Default.htm](http://town.canton.ma.us/pantry/Default.htm)  
 Donations: Non-perishable food, Personal care items, and Household products
- **Dedham Food Pantry**  
**600 Washington St.**, Dedham, MA 02027  
 Phone: 781-320-9442  
 P.O. Box 46  
 Website: [www.dedhamfoodpantry.org](http://www.dedhamfoodpantry.org)  
 Donations: Non-perishable food and Personal care items
- **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**  
 234 Barnum Rd., Devens, MA 01434  
 Phone: (978) 772-4627  
 Website: [www.loavesfishespantry.org/cms/index.php?layout=main&cslot\\_1=2](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org/cms/index.php?layout=main&cslot_1=2)  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food Items, Personal Care Items
- **Easton Food Pantry**  
 136 Elm St North Easton, MA 02356  
 Phone: (508) 230-0663

Website: [www.easton.ma.us/Directory/food\\_pantry/foodneeds.htm](http://www.easton.ma.us/Directory/food_pantry/foodneeds.htm)

Donations: Non-Perishable Food Items, Toiletries, Pet Food (Dog & Cat), Reusable Tote bags

- **Franklin Food Pantry**

43 West Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038-0116

Phone: (508) 528-3115

P.O. Box 116

Website: [franklinfoodpantry.org](http://franklinfoodpantry.org)

Donations: Food (Non-perishable, fresh, frozen, spices & condiments), Personal care products, Toiletries, Household cleaning items, Re-useable shopping bags

- **Acord Food Pantry**

69 Willow St South Hamilton, MA 01982

Phone: (978) 468-7424

Website: <http://acordfoodpantry.org/index.htm>

Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Beverages & Condiments, Toiletries, Household paper and cleaning products

- **The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts**

97 North Hatfield Road, Hatfield, MA 01038

Phone: 413-247-9738; Fax: 413-247-9577

Website: [www.foodbankwma.org](http://www.foodbankwma.org)

Donations: Fresh Produce, Salvage

- **Hingham Interfaith Food Pantry**

685 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

Phone: (781) 740-8180

Donations: Food

- **Wachusett Food Pantry**

1216 Main St Holden, MA 01520

Phone: (508) 829-2749

P.O. Box 62, Jefferson, MA 01522-0062

Website: [www.wfp1995.org/howtohelp.asp](http://www.wfp1995.org/howtohelp.asp)

Donations: Non-perishable and unexpired food

- **Holliston Pantry Shelf**

23 Water St., Holliston, MA 01746

Phone: (508) 429-5392

Website: [hollistonpantryshelf.org](http://hollistonpantryshelf.org)

Donations: Food and Toiletries

- **Merrimack Valley Food Bank**

735 Broadway Street Lowell, MA 01854

Phone: 978-454-7272; Fax: 978-454-1717

Website: [mvfb.org](http://mvfb.org)

Donations: Food and Personal care items

- Food Pantry of Merrimack Valley**  
 70 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852  
 Phone: (978) 454-9946  
 Website: <http://www.ccab.org/lowell-food-pantry.html>  
 Donations: Food
- The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell**  
 200 Central Street, Lowell, MA 01852  
 Phone: (978) 453-6693  
 Website: [theopenpantry.org](http://theopenpantry.org)
- Marshfield Food Pantry**  
**1981 Ocean Street**, Marshfield, MA 02050  
 Phone: (781) 837-0359  
 P.O. Box 1097  
 Website: <http://marshfieldfoodpantry.org/index.html>  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Pet Foods
- Our Daily Bread Friends Caring & Sharing**  
 15 West St Mansfield, MA 02048  
 Phone: (508) 339-1343  
 P.O. Box 322  
 Website:  
[http://www.occmansfield.org/Food%20Pantry\\_files/foodpantrysite/donations.html](http://www.occmansfield.org/Food%20Pantry_files/foodpantrysite/donations.html)  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food
- Maynard Food Pantry**  
 12 Vose Hill Rd Maynard, MA 01754  
 Phone: (978) 897-8340  
 P.O. Box 55  
 Website: <http://web.maynard.ma.us/civic/pantry/>  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food & Formula, Personal care Items & Toiletries, Detergents & Papers
- Medfield Food Cupboard**  
 496 Main St Medfield, MA 02052  
 Phone: (508) 359-4958  
 Website: <http://medfieldfoodcupboard.com/>  
 Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Personal Care Items & Toiletries, Cleaning Products & Detergents, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, etc.
- Daily Bread Food Pantry**  
 21 Exchange Street, Milford, MA 01757  
 Phone: (508) 478-4225  
 Website: [trinitychurchmilford.org/outreach.html](http://trinitychurchmilford.org/outreach.html)  
 Donations: Food
- Nantucket Emergency Food Pantry**  
 20 Fair Street, Nantucket, MA 02554

Phone: (508) 228-7438

Website: [www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov) , [coffinrealestate.com/blog/?p=1556](http://coffinrealestate.com/blog/?p=1556)

Donations: Perishable & Non-perishable Food

- **Northborough Food Pantry**  
63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532  
Phone: (508) 393-6897  
Website: <http://nfpantry.org/nfp/>  
Donations: Perishable & Non-Perishable Food
- **Haven from Hunger**  
71 Wallis St., Peabody, MA 01960  
Phone: (978) 531-1530  
Website: [havenfromhunger.org](http://havenfromhunger.org)  
Donations: Food
- **Roslindale Congregational Church RCC Food Pantry**  
25 Cummins Highway  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
Phone: (617) 325-9755  
Website: [http://roscon.org/?page\\_id=9](http://roscon.org/?page_id=9)  
Donations: Non-Perishable Food
- **Sandwich Food Pantry**  
331 Cotuit Road, Sandwich, MA 02563  
Phone: (508) 888-3816  
P.O. Box 1824  
Website: [sandwichfoodpantry.org](http://sandwichfoodpantry.org)  
Donations: Non-perishable food, Toiletries, Laundry & Dish Detergent
- **Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.**  
474 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
Phone: 508-842-3663; Fax: 508-842-7405  
Website: [www.foodbank.org](http://www.foodbank.org)  
Donations: Prepared Foods, Production Kitchen, Fresh Produce, Salvage
- **Project Soup**  
15 Franklin St, Somerville, MA 02145  
Phone: (617) 776-7687  
P.O. Box 440436 Somerville, MA 02144  
Website: <http://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/programs/Project%20Soup.html>  
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Baby Food, Personal Care Items & Toiletries, Household Items, Paper Towels & Paper Products
- **Our Community Food Pantry**  
220 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077  
Phone: (413) 569-9876  
Website: [www.community-food-pantry.org/p/food-drives-and-where-to-donate.html](http://www.community-food-pantry.org/p/food-drives-and-where-to-donate.html)  
Donations: Perishable & Non-Perishable Food, Paper Towel & Toilet Paper

- **Tewksbury Food Pantry**  
999 Whipple Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876  
Phone: (978) 858-2273  
Website: [www.tewksburypantry.org](http://www.tewksburypantry.org)  
Donations: Non-perishable food, Personal care items, Toiletries, Detergent, Household cleaning items, Foils, Trash Bags, Storage bags & wares, Paper Plates and Plastic Ware
- **Island Food Pantry-Cu Meth**  
Church St & Williams, St Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
Phone: (508) 693-4764  
P.O. Box 1874  
Website: [www.islandfoodpantry.org/index.htm](http://www.islandfoodpantry.org/index.htm)

Donations: Non-Perishable & Canned Food

- **Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry**  
8 Lafayette St, Wakefield, MA 01880  
Phone: (781) 245-2510  
Website: [www.wifoodpantry.org/index.html](http://www.wifoodpantry.org/index.html)  
Donations: Non-Perishable Food, Spices & Condiments, Beverages, Cleaning Products, Personal Care Items
- **Weymouth Food Pantry**  
1189 Commercial St., Weymouth, MA 02189  
Phone : (781) 331-7682  
**P.O. Box 890009**  
Website: [weymouthfoodpantry.org](http://weymouthfoodpantry.org)  
Donations: Canned goods, pasta, rice, cereals, meat, milk, cheese, eggs, diapers and personal products.
- **Woburn Council of Social Concern**  
2 Merrimac St., Woburn, MA 01801-1606  
Phone: (781) 935-6495  
Website: [www.socialconcern.org](http://www.socialconcern.org)  
Donations: Non-perishable food

### **Food Donation Transport:**

Some locations are willing to pick up donations or are even able to provide collection bins. If pick-up or drop-off is not possible, Food Drive for the Hungry: American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (ARCMB) has collaborated with Project Bread/Walk for Hunger to provide a program to transport food that has been donated.

Every day, Food Drive for the Hungry vans pick up and deliver surplus food from bakeries, food suppliers, farm stands and grocery stores, and deliver them to a network of more than 200 food pantries across the state. Please contact ARCMB at 617-375-0700 for more information.



## **Animal Feed Options:**

Food discards can be recovered as animal feed. For this, farmers may provide storage containers and free or low-cost pick-up service. Appropriate excess food may also be provided to zoos for use as feed for select animals, based upon the determination of each zoo's animal feeding experts. There are also companies that convert food discards into commercial animal feed and pet food. Feeding waste food to livestock or having the food processed into animal feed is an excellent option for recycling food scraps that provides economic and environmental benefits.

## **Haulers:**

- **C. B. Trucking Medway, MA**  
Contact: Ph – (508) 533-7760 Region: C, E  
Description: Provides residential pickup in Needham, but will pickup food waste from small to large generators of this waste. All food waste is brought to licensed pig farmers. Primarily serves Needham and Wellesley residents and businesses, and other nearby areas in Eastern Massachusetts.
- **Troiano Trucking**  
Contact: Ph – (508) 839-1300 Region: All New England  
Description: Picks up food bi-products to be made into animal feed including sugars, grains, cereals, cookies, crackers, and other organics in compactors and roll-offs from high volume generators. The organic waste is then brought to a DEP approved composting facility.

## **Processors:**

Licensed food waste processors have obtained a permit from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture to collect food residuals, cook it, and feed it to their livestock. These farming institutions will pick-up or accept delivery of food waste, including meat products, to be cooked and fed to their livestock.

- **Starretts Farm 18 Pleasant Street, Mendon, MA**  
Contact: Paul Starrett  
Phone: (508) 473-5622  
Region: E, C  
Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.
- **Shaw's Pig Farm Nashua, NH**  
Contact: Chris Shaw  
Phone: (603) 878-3448  
Region: NE, E  
Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.
- **Plante Brothers 110 Oak Street, Norton, MA**  
Contact: Brian Plante  
Phone: (508) 285-6821

Region: SE, C

Description: Picks up food waste, including meat products. Generator must provide drums for food waste collection.

### **Industrial Uses:**

Liquid fats and solid meat products can be used as raw materials in the rendering industry, which converts them into animal food, cosmetics, soap, and other products. Many companies will provide storage barrels and free pick-up service. Fats, oils, and grease (FOGS) are also now being collected in more and more areas around the country and being converted by a local manufacturer into environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel.

- **Baker Commodities Inc.**  
134 Rear, Billerica Ave  
Billerica, Massachusetts - 01862-0132  
Phone: (978)454-8811  
Fax: (978)654-7788  
Website: <http://www.bakercommodities.com/>  
Services in rendering, restaurant grease collection, jetting, and fat and bone collection.  
Recycled and used cooking oil into high-protein ingredients for poultry feed and pet food, tallow (a valuable ingredient in soaps, paints, cosmetics, and more), and also convert used cooking oil into "yellow grease," a key ingredient in biodiesel fuels.
- **Martucci & Sons Inc.**  
126 Newmarket Square  
Boston, MA  
Phone: (617) 442-8905  
Collector of Fryolator Oil, Fat & Bones
- **American by Products Co Inc.**  
13 Andrew Street  
Lynn, MA  
Phone: (781) 593-3580  
Collectors of Fryolator Grease, Fats and Bones, Tallow Scheduled Pickups
- **Great East Refining Co.**  
13 Andrew Street  
Lynn, MA  
Phone: (781) 592-0251
- **A & K Waste Systems Inc.**  
126 Newmarket Sq  
Roxbury, MA  
Phone: (617) 442-6732  
Removal and recycling used cooking oil into bio-diesel and removal and rendering of Fat, Bones, Fish waste, and all other types of Food Waste from Boston and surrounding areas.
- **Morse Tallow Co.**

66 Norfolk Avenue  
Roxbury, MA  
Phone: (617) 445-0700  
Animals and Marine Fats and Oils rendering

- **Western Mass. Rendering Co. Inc**

94 Foster Road  
Southwick Mass.01077  
Phone: (413) 569-6265  
Fax: (413) 569-6512  
Website: <http://www.westernmassrendering.com/>  
Recycle fats, bones and spent frying grease to help create lubricants, animal feed, soap products and bio-fuels rendering